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10.12.2015

Dear Colleagues (in Blood Transfusion),

Re BLOOD USAGE DECEMBER 2015 / JANUARY 2016

Please take note that we are approaching the Xmas recess and this time usually means that NamBTS is struggling to maintain a blood stock that easily satisfies the demand.

Despite our Donate B4 U Go campaign, additional mobile clinics and an intensified recruitment drive in November and December, it remains a fact that it is difficult to maintain our usual healthy blood stock.

This is mainly due to donors being on holiday and not available, general year-end donor fatigue, the many public holidays, high demand of blood due to the high accident and trauma rate, higher blood usage than intake and overuse of emergency O blood.

In order to make it through the Xmas recess in December 2015 / January 2016 I would like to urge you to:

- ✓ Prescribe blood and blood products judiciously and appropriately
- ✓ Postpone non-urgent surgery
- ✓ Consider alternatives to blood transfusion
- ✓ Use blood group O for EMERGENCIES ONLY
- ✓ Always use cross-matched blood when available
- ✓ Treat the patient, not the Hb or platelet count only
- ✓ Order the minimum required, then re-assess the patient, and re-order if necessary
- ✓ Decrease wastage (cold-chain, stand-by-option)
- ✓ And, lastly, donate blood yourself

Trusting on your clinical wisdom and expertise I wish you all a MERRY XMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Kind regards

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Medical Director / NamBTS

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